

A true Copy of a

LETTER

Sent by S. J. an Eminent Minister of the
Church of England,

TO

Sir Tho. Armstrong

Prisoner in Newgate, on the 18th of this
Instant June, 1684.

Sir Thomas,

NOW is the day at hand in which your strong
held Soul and Body must be disunited
and dissolved by Death: I shall not here
stand to mention the hainousness of your crime,
and the Merits of your Death. You are now
shortly to appear before the Righteous Judge
of Heaven and Earth, for whose unavoidable
Affize I hope you prepare for; *Conscientia mille
testes*, there is no Bribing, no Subornation of
Juries nor Evidence; If your own Heart Con-
demn you, God is greater then your Heart, and
knoweth all things; It is no great matter to
stand upon those punctillions of honour, how,
or after what manner you shall make your exit,
and Death close your Eyes: Whether longer or
shorter? whether Nobly or Ignominiously? (as
to Worldly Fame) whether in the Field or in
the Bed? whether by the Axe or the Gibbet?
It is your Soul I aim at: It is true your Crime
was great here, (I beg your Pardon) I do not

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intend

intend to insult over one, *Mortuus in Lege*, a dying Man a dead Lyon: But that I may by these just considerations, raise the Spring of your Soul to a right consideration, and a true pitch for Eternity; and as your Life makes attonement to the King, it must be your true Repentance, Prayers and Tears with strong Sighs and Groans that must make attonement through Christ to God Almighty, which is the only thing I heartily desire for, and am fellow Labourer with you: That this your sincere and true Repentance may so animate your Soul, that may prepare it for an Eternal weight of Glory.

The best Cordial I can give you, or prescribe to you in this present Disease (*In terticulo morbis*) is the Word of God: Where I shall first advise you to Read as soon as may be, *That you find your Soul hovering after Eternal Happiness*, is the 88 Psalm, both as it is in the Bible and also alter'd something in the *Common-Prayer-Book*: There is nothing in the whole Word of God doth more correspond with your present condition. And this truly humbling to you, and inclining your Soul to seek for Soul saving comfort, turn to the 55 of *Isaiah* 5 and 7 ver. Other promises of Mercy I doubt not but you will apply to your self, and in that safe way and Method our dear Lord and Saviour hath Scour'd out unto you, from his own Promises and Intercession. Thus prepared like *Moses* the Servant of the Lord, when he had by God himself his day and place appointed for Death, in the 32 of *Deut.* and soon, *He is nothing dismayed, but Sings his Song, makes his Speech, gives his Blessing, goes cheerfully up at the Command of God and Dyes.* I pray God so Blessed a Saint may be your Pattern, and that your Sins may be freely Pardon'd, and your Soul may be Eternally saved.

Is the most Ardent desire, and Prayers of him that was your Acquaintance, and now a poor Intercessor at the Throne of Grace, for you.

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Entered according to Order.